

CAA News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENSUS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ❖ January 2004

ARE YOU DUE?

If there is a blank white label on the lower left corner of your envelope, your 2004 CAA dues are due. You need to send a check for \$5 made out to CAA to P.O. Box 1480, Suitland, MD 20752. You also may send \$10 for two years.

Election Results

The nominating committee, with Paula Schneider as chair, have certified the results of last fall's election. Newly elected directors are indicated by *, others are incumbents who were reelected or whose terms had not expired. You can see photos and read bios of all board members at www.census.gov/alumni/directors.html. The board now consists of the following members:

Francis Boucher, President
Edwin Goldfield, Vice President
Ezilda Gorman, Treasurer
Mary Reilly, Secretary
Jerry Mann, Editor
Ann Casey
Shirley Jones
Louis Kincannon
Sherman Landau
Robert White
Jim Aanestad*
Fred Cavanaugh*
Emma Moreno*

Outgoing directors are Roger Bugenhagen, Howard Fletcher, and Chuck Waite.

Reunions, Past and Future

CAA's Seventh Reunion was held at the Census Bureau on Friday, October 3, 2003. It was well attended, the speeches were to the point and mercifully brief, and the refreshments were quite tasty. It was a pleasure to see a number of familiar faces who hadn't attended any of the

last few reunions. (To see some photos from the reunion, go to www.census.gov/alumni/memberpics3.html.) We are very tentatively planning a luncheon for the next reunion, early in October 2004, at Andrews Officers Club, but of course the security situation can't be predicted. Frank Boucher suggested Rosecroft Raceway's dining room as an alternative. If you have any other suggestions or comments, please mail them to CAA at the address shown in the box on page 4.

Directory Correction

In the membership directory distributed at the October reunion, there is an error in Frank Boucher's e-mail address. It should be rehcuob@chesapeake.net.

News From Alumni

[Thanks to all who wrote. Let's hear from the rest of you too. If possible, please send your contribution by e-mail to gmann928@hotmail.com.]

Jerry Roth writes to say, You may remember me from DSMD, DOD, MCD, or EPCD, or possibly softball, tennis, Chinese New Year, or jazz club. I retired on May 3 and left the Washington area on August 8 to start a new life in Tempe, AZ. I'm just getting settled, but plan to bike and play tennis year-round, and NO grass cutting! Love the landscape, the weather, and the people here. It's great to keep up with all of you through the newsletter. My e-mail is jerome_roth@hotmail.com.

Henry Shryock was prominently featured in an article in *The Washington Post* in November. He and his wife and hiking companion, Pauline Lemarie, ages 91 and 92 respectively, are out nearly every week with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, enjoying the scenery, getting some good exercise, and clambering over rocks. (Pauline says Henry "leaps from rock to rock. He's like a goat, in more ways than one!")

Jerry Mann says he and his daughter enjoyed a very nice trip to France with Go Ahead Vacations in

October. They stayed in Paris four days in the center of Montmartre. They saw all the usual tourist sights and even learned to ride the Paris subway, le Metro. One day they enjoyed a side trip to Versailles and another day a visit to the home and beautiful gardens of Monet. Then they rode the TGV (high-speed train) to the charming walled city Avignon in the heart of Provence, where they stayed three days.

Then they went by bus to Nice, where they were dazzled by the Cote d'Azur and the amazing topography. This stay included a visit to Monaco and some gambling action in the Monte Carlo casino, where Jerry won 30 euros (about \$32). After two more days and nights of sightseeing, eating, and drinking, another bus ride took them through the foothills of the spectacular French Alps to the charming little town of Annecy with its flower-lined canals, where they spent two days before flying home from Geneva. Jerry says it was a wonderful vacation, though they arrived home thoroughly exhausted.

Dave Warner, former chief of Personnel Division, wrote to thank Jerry Mann and Ezilda Gorman for providing much of the effort that sustains CAA. *[Believe me, Ezilda does most of the work. Jerry]* Dave also reported, "Recent medical advances have permitted improvements in our daughter's life. The three of us, generally confined to home during past years, are enjoying some new-found freedom. Our daughter Joyce has been able to return to school part-time, and I enjoyed the freedom to drive to Suitland to attend the recent CAA reunion.

Elaine and I, both from Wilmington, met at the University of Delaware, and upon retirement decided to return to where we started. For most of retirement I have volunteered as a Master Gardener in the Agricultural College of the University of Delaware, where I try to help people with their problems in home gardens. Questions range from identifying plants and weeds to how to eradicate pests and diseases and grow edible fruits. Campus staff and I have developed a system that allows me to provide phone and e-mail resolution of people's garden problems, and also gives me the opportunity to socialize without going anywhere and to discuss topics that are my idea of fun.

We also volunteer as guides at Longwood Gardens and the Hagley Museum, two special places to visit. And if you do, we are close to I-95 in Wilmington, DE, and would like to see you. We offer clean rest rooms and better coffee than the turnpike! Just let us know you are coming on dwarner@udel.edu, or at 302-764-1539. We've enjoyed visits from several Census retirees, and e-mail has kept me in touch with many friends.

At the reunion this fall, I lunched with Peggy Dillon, Joyce Brown, and Rick Volk and thoroughly enjoyed seeing many other people who are part of my good memories of three decades in Suitland. Attending the reunion also led to my first lunch in 9 years with Roger Bugenhagen. Still compromising, we met in Chestertown, half way between our two homes."

DEATHS

[Please forward any obituaries of former Census Bureau employees you see in papers outside the DC area.]

John O. Behrens, former Taxation Branch Chief in Governments Division, passed away on August 27 after a brief illness. John retired from the Census Bureau in 1993. He was an expert in property taxation, especially the legal aspects, and continued his activities in several organizations related to that subject after his retirement. John will be remembered for his quiet, gentlemanly manner and strong commitment to social justice. His wife Maria and several children survive him.

James W. Shores Sr., 72, died of cancer August 25 at his home in Falls Church, VA. He began his career at the Census Bureau, where he worked on the Univac 1 computer. He was promoted to the managerial ranks, and in 1967 he received the Commerce Department's Silver Medal. In 1972 he moved to the Patent and Trademark Office to help improve its computer processing. At the time of his retirement in 1986, after 37 years of government service, he was director of documentation planning at PTO. His marriage to Katrina Shores ended in divorce. Survivors include his wife of 18 years, Carole Phillips Shores, three sons from his first marriage, and five grandchildren.

David McNelis, former Chief of Governments Division

in the early 1970s and father of Lisa McNelis of Governments Division, passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness on September 15. He was a major force in expanding the state and local government statistics program beyond the Census of Governments into several reimbursable program areas that shape the work today. Dave will be remembered for his warm smile, his strong advocacy of employee training and development, and his visionary leadership. Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Jean, two children, a sister, and a grandson.

Bob Bonnette died of an apparent heart attack in August 2003. He had worked in HHES and the old Housing Division during his whole Census career (1966 to 1999). He returned to the Bureau as a contractor in 2003 and was writing several decennial briefs for HHES before his death.

Mary C. Ahern, 95, died September 27 at a hospital in Texarkana, TX, of complications related to congestive heart failure. She worked for the Census Bureau in the late 1920s until she joined the staff of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association in 1932. Survivors include a sister.

Thomas D. Monroe, 69, died October 10 at a hospital in Knoxville. He had a brain tumor. He was an economic statistician at the Census Bureau who worked on the agriculture census for 31 years and specialized in livestock. After retiring from the Bureau in 1989, he moved back to his hometown of Luttrell, TN. Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Peggy Monroe, six children, 17 grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Joan B. Taylor, a retired Population Division employee, passed away October 20. No further details were available.

Ethel "Sissy" Ayres, lost her battle with cancer on October 16. She had worked at the Census Bureau in Acquisitions and TCO.

Pat Fuellhart died October 13 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She had 24 years of service at the Census Bureau, beginning in 1970 in the Statistical Research Division. She spent several years in the mid 1980s in the Field Division, served as special assistant to associate director Roland Moore during the 1990 census, and retired in 1994 from the Data User Services Division when diagnosed with cancer. She had

a passion for animals, and loved the horse farm where she and her husband Jack lived in Warrenton raising race horses. Pat is survived by her husband Jack, her daughters Elizabeth and Pam, her son David, and five grandchildren.

Elaine Richards, formerly of the Economic Directorate's Administrative Staff, Agriculture Division, and Industry Division, lost her battle with cancer on November 20.

Groundbreaking for New Census Headquarters

On September 16 the long-promised and -awaited work on a new Census Bureau headquarters was begun. (The location is approximately where the old NIC-1 building stood, near the new Metro parking garage.) Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony were the Census Bureau's Director, Charles Louis Kincannon; the Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Samuel Bodman; Senators Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes; Congressmen Albert Wynn, Steny Hoyer, and Steven LaTourette; and several representatives of GSA. (It was a long program!) The Suitland High School Color Guard presented the colors, and the Suitland High School Jazz Band and the Census Chorale provided music. Ed Goldfield, CAA vice president, noted that he was the only one present who had also attended the dedication of FOB 3 in 1942. The October issue of Census CounterParts contained numerous quotes and color photos from the event.

Pacemaker Calms Tremors

The FDA has approved a pacemaker-like device designed to treat stiffness, slowness, and tremor in Parkinson's disease patients. The device includes an electrode implanted in the brain and two battery-powered pulse generators implanted beneath the collarbone. It calms abnormal electrical activity in the brain. In an international study, the device improved motor skills by 49 percent and cut involuntary movements significantly. For more information, go to www.medtronic.com/neuro/parkinsons/product.html.

Subject: English as a First Language

Baloney: Where some hemlines fall

Burglarize: What a thief sees you with

Left Bank: What the robber did after his bag was full of cash

Primate: What you have to do to get your husband away from TV

Misty: What Tiger Woods never does

Subdued: Like, a guy who makes sandwiches, man

Eclipse: What an English barber does for a living

Eye Dropper: A clumsy ophthalmologist

Heroes: What a guy in a boat does

Visit CAA on the Web

CAA has a presence on the Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/alumni. You can view the membership roster, photos and bios of CAA directors, back issues of the newsletter, and more.

Dark Chocolate May Lower Blood Pressure

A German study appearing in the Journal of the American Medical Association reports that 13 adults with untreated mild hypertension ate a 3-ounce chocolate bar every day for 2 weeks. Seven got white chocolate and six got dark. (Dark chocolate contains plant substances called polyphenols, which scientists think are responsible for the heart-healthy attributes of red wine, and which have been shown to lower blood pressure in animals.)

Blood pressure remained unchanged in those who got the white chocolate, which does not contain polyphenols, but the systolic pressure (the higher number) dropped an average of 5 points and the diastolic pressure (lower number) an average of 2 points for those who ate the dark chocolate.

Researcher Dr. Dirk Taubert of the University of Cologne, the lead author, said that the results need to be confirmed in larger, longer term studies, but that dark chocolate "might serve as a promising approach to reduce systolic blood pressure."

Best Web Sites for People 50-Plus

More than 500 of the most authoritative and informative Web sites for people over 50 and their families have been collected into a new, free database by AARP. It includes topics such as genealogy, Medicare, classic 1950s TV shows, and health care. Visit www.aarp.org/internetresources.

Don't Get Scammed

Would you be willing to put up several thousand dollars in hope of receiving millions once an overseas "government official" transfers funds to the U.S.? Let's hope not. This is one of many scams (sometimes called the "Nigerian letter") that is currently defrauding hundreds of Americans. Other scams include offers of phony credit cards, prizes, and sweepstakes, offers to buy a telephone booth, recovery of funds lost in a previous scam, and commodity options. These outfits are trying to get your personal information to steal your identity.

Here are some ways to avoid being taken:

- Never give anyone your Social Security, bank

account, or credit card number unless you are certain who they are and that they have a legitimate reason for wanting your number.

- Do not have your Social Security number printed on your checks, and if your state uses it on your driver's license, ask for a different number.
- Don't habitually carry anything in your wallet or purse that has your Social Security number, including your Medicare card.
- Buy a shredder (they are as cheap as \$20) and shred everything to be discarded that contains any of those numbers or other personal information. Also shred credit card solicitations.
- Cancel any unused credit cards, and only carry the one(s) you regularly use.
- If you must write down your personal identification numbers (PINs), keep that information somewhere safe, not in your wallet or purse.
- Go over your bank and credit card statements carefully each month to check for suspicious activity.
- Be suspicious of anything that promises large profits, low risks, or guaranteed returns.
- Don't succumb to pressure to "invest right now because the opportunity will be gone tomorrow when everyone else finds out about it."
- Check your credit report once a year. The three sources are Equifax (800-685-1111), Experian (888-397-3742), and TransUnion (800-916-8800).

If you believe you have been contacted by a scammer or are a victim of one, visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft for information and contact the following:

FTC Identity Theft Hot Line, 877-438-4338

Social Security Fraud Hot Line, 800-269-0271

U.S. Postal Inspectors, 800-372-8347

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Deadlines for submissions:

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September issue Aug. 10

Your contributions are welcome on any subject of interest to former Census Bureau employees, especially news of yourselves and your families. Please send contributions to gmann928@hotmail.com or to CAA, P.O. Box 1480, Suitland, MD 20752. (E-mail is preferred.)